

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A power failure managing device in a system, comprising:

a backup power source;

a CPU having a processing unit that detects a power failure and actuates said backup

5 power source upon detecting said power failure; and

a rewritable memory that records the status of said system at the moment of said power failure;

wherein if said CPU determines that said backup power source is not properly functioning at the moment of said power failure, information from said backup power source is recorded in said memory.

2. The power failure managing device according to Claim 1, wherein said information from said backup power source is recorded in said memory by overwriting.

3. The power failure managing device according to Claim 1, wherein said memory comprises a flash memory.

4. The power failure managing device according to Claim 1, wherein said information from said backup power source comprises the charge of said backup power source, the connection of said backup power source with said system, or both.

5. A power failure managing device in a card reader, comprising:

a backup power source;

a CPU having a processing unit that detects a power failure and actuates said backup

25 power source upon detecting said power failure; and

a rewritable memory that records the status of said card reader at the moment of said power failure;

wherein if said CPU determines that said backup power source is not properly functioning at the moment of said power failure, information from said backup power source is recorded in said memory.

6. A method for managing a power failure comprising using the power failure managing device of Claim 1.

7. The method for managing a power failure according to Claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

- (a) executing a process monitoring task to detect a power failure;
- (b) determining whether said backup power source is properly functioning; and
- (c) depending upon whether said backup power source is properly functioning, either actuating said backup power source to perform normal power failure management or recording information from said backup power source in said memory;

wherein said information is used to recover the process said system was performing before said power failure.